

Moscow TV Address

*HAK OK 5:05 pm*  
Draft Nine  
May 28, 1972

Good evening.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity your government has given me to speak directly with the people of the Soviet Union -- to bring you a message of friendship from the people of the United States, and to share with you some of my thoughts about the relations between our two countries, and about the way to peace and progress in the world.

This is my fourth visit to the Soviet Union. On these visits I have gained a great respect for the people of the Soviet Union -- for your strength, your generosity, your determination, for the diversity and richness of your cultural heritage, and for your many achievements.

In the three years I have been in office, one of my principal aims has been to establish a better relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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Our two countries have much in common. Most important of all we have never fought one another in war. On the contrary, the memory of your soldiers and ours embracing at the Elbe as allies in 1945 remains strong in millions of hearts in both of our countries. It is my hope that that memory can serve as an inspiration for the renewal of Soviet-American cooperation in the 1970's. As great powers, we will sometimes be competitors but we need never be enemies.

Thirteen years ago, when I visited your country as Vice President, I addressed the people of the Soviet Union on radio and television as I am addressing you this evening. I said then: "Let us have peaceful competition not only in producing the best factories but in producing better lives for our people. Let us cooperate in our exploration of outer space.... Let our aim be not victory over other peoples but the victory of all mankind over hunger, want, misery and disease, wherever it exists in the world."

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In our meetings this week, we have begun to bring some of those hopes to fruition.

Shortly after we arrived here on Monday afternoon, a brief rain fell on Moscow of the kind that I am told is called a "mushroom rain" -- a warm rain, with sunshine breaking through, that makes the mushrooms grow and is therefore considered a good omen.

The month of May is early for mushrooms -- but as our talks progressed, what did grow was even better: A ~~set~~ <sup>reaching</sup> set of agreements that can lead to a better life for both of our peoples, and to a better chance for peace in the world.

We have agreed on joint ventures in space.

We have agreed on ways of working together to protect the environment, to advance health, and to cooperate in science and technology.

We have agreed on means of preventing incidents at sea.

We have established a commission to expand trade between our two nations.

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Most important, we have taken an historic first step in the limitation of strategic arms.

This arms control agreement is not for the purpose of giving either side an advantage over the other. Both of our nations are strong. Each respects the strength of the other. Each will maintain the strength necessary to defend its independence.

But in an unchecked arms race between two great nations, there would be no winners, only losers. By setting this limitation together, the people of both of our nations and of all nations can be winners.

If we continue in the spirit of serious purpose that has marked our discussions this week, these agreements can start us on a new road of cooperation, for the benefit of our peoples and of all peoples.

There is an old proverb that says: "Make peace with man, and quarrel with your sins."

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The hardships and evils that beset all men in all nations -- these and these alone are what we should make war upon.

As we look at the prospects for peace, we see that we have made significant progress at reducing the possible sources of direct conflict between us. But history tells us that great nations have often been dragged into war without intending it, by conflicts between smaller nations. As great powers, we can and should use our influence to prevent this from happening.

Our goal should be to discourage aggression in other parts of the world, and particularly among those smaller nations that look to us for leadership and example.

With great power goes great responsibility. When a man walks with a giant tread, he must be careful where he sets his feet. There can be true peace only when the weak are as safe as the strong.

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The wealthier and more powerful our own countries become, the more we have to lose from war and the threat of war anywhere in the world.

Speaking for the United States, I can say this:

We covet no one else's territory, we seek no dominion over any other people. We seek the right to live in peace -- not only for ourselves, but for all the peoples of this earth.

Our power will only be used to keep the peace, never to break it; only to defend freedom, never to destroy it.

No nation that does not threaten its neighbors has anything to fear from the United States.

Soviet citizens have often asked me, "Does America truly want peace?" I believe that our actions answer that question far better than any words could do.

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If we did not want peace, we would not have reduced the size of our armed forces by a million men -- by almost one-third -- during the past three years.

If we did not want peace, we would not have worked so hard at reaching an agreement on the limitation of nuclear arms, at achieving a settlement on Berlin, at maintaining peace in the Middle East, at establishing better relations with the Soviet Union, with the People's Republic of China, and with all the nations of the world.

Mrs. Nixon and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union and to get to know the people of the Soviet Union -- so friendly, and hospitable - so courageous and strong.

Most Americans will never have a chance to visit the Soviet Union, and most Soviet citizens will never be able to visit America. Most of you know our country only through what you read in your newspapers and hear on the radio.

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newspapers and what you hear and see on radio and television and in motion pictures. This is only a part of the real America. I would like to take this opportunity to try to convey to you something of what America is really like -- not in terms of its scenic beauties, its great cities, its factories, its farms or its highways, but in terms of its people.

In many ways the people of our two countries are very much alike. Like the Soviet Union, ours is a large and diverse nation. Our people, like yours are hard working. Like you, we Americans have a strong spirit of competition, but also a great love of music and poetry, of sports and humor. Above all, we, like you, are an open, natural and friendly people. We love our country. We love our children. And we want for you and for your children the same peace and abundance we want for ourselves and for our children.

We Americans are idealists, and we believe deeply in our own system of government. We cherish our personal



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liberty. We would fight to defend it if necessary, as we have done before, but we also believe deeply in the right of each nation to choose its own system. Therefore however much we like our own system for ourselves we have no desire to impose it on anyone else.

As we conclude this week of talks there are certain fundamental premises of the American point of view which I believe deserve emphasis.

In conducting these talks it has not been our aim to divide up the world into spheres of influence, to establish a condominium, or in any way to conspire together against the interests of any other nation. Rather, we have sought to construct a better framework of understanding between our two nations, to make progress in our bilateral relationships, and to find ways of ensuring that future frictions between us would never embroil our two nations -- and therefore the world -- in war.

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While ours are both great and powerful nations, the world is no longer dominated by two superpowers. The world is a better and safer place because its power and resources are more widely distributed. Beyond this, since World War II more than 70 new nations have come into being. We cannot have true peace unless they and all nations can feel that they share in it.

America seeks better relations not only with the Soviet Union but with all nations. The only sound basis for a peaceful and progressive international order is sovereign equality and mutual respect. We believe in the right of each nation to chart its own course, to choose its own system, to go its own way without interference from other nations.

As we look to the longer term, peace depends also on continued progress in the developing nations. Together with other advanced industrial countries, the United States and the Soviet Union share a two-fold responsibility in this regard: On the one hand, to practice restraint in those activities --

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such as the supply of arms -- that might endanger the peace of the developing nations; and second, to assist in their orderly economic and social development, without political interference.

Some of you may have heard an old story told in Russia of a traveler who was walking to another village. He knew the way, but not the distance. Finally he came upon a woodsman chopping wood by the side of the road. He asked the woodsman: "How long will it take to reach the village?"

The woodsman replied, "I don't know."

The traveler was angry, because he was sure the woodsman was from the village and therefore knew how far it was. So he started off down the road again. After he had gone a few steps the woodsman called out, "Stop. It will take you about fifteen minutes."

The traveler turned, and demanded: "Why didn't you tell me that in the first place?"

The woodsman replied: "Because then I didn't know the length of your stride."

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In our talks this week with the leaders of the Soviet Union, both sides have had a chance to measure the length of our strides toward peace and security. I believe that those strides have been substantial, and that now we have well begun the long journey which will lead us to a new age in the relations between our two countries. It is important to both of our peoples that we continue those strides.

As our two countries learn to work together, our people will be able to get to know one another better. Greater cooperation can also mean a great deal in our daily lives.

As we learn to cooperate in space, in health, in the environment, in science and technology, our cooperation can help sick people get well. It can help industries produce more consumer goods. It can help all of us enjoy cleaner air and water. It can increase our knowledge of the world around us.

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As we expand our trade, each of our countries can buy more of the other's goods and market more of its own.

As we gain experience with arms control, we can bring closer the day when further agreements can lessen the arms burden of our two nations, and lessen the threat of war in the world.

Through all the pages of history, through all the centuries, the world's people have struggled to be free from fear -- whether fear of the elements, or fear of hunger, or fear of their own rulers, or fear of their neighbors in other countries. Yet time and again people have vanquished the source of one fear only to fall prey to another. Let our goal now be a world free of fear -- a world in which nation will no longer prey upon nation, in which human energies will be turned away from production for war and toward more production for peace, away from conquest and toward invention, development, creation -- a world in which, together, we can establish that peace which is more than the absence of war, and which enables man to pursue those higher goals that the spirit yearns for.

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Yesterday in Leningrad I laid a wreath at the Piskaryev Cemetery - which commemorates the brave people who died during the seige of Leningrad in World War II.

At the cemetery, I saw the picture of a 12 year old girl. She was a beautiful child. Her name was Tanya. The pages of her diary tell the terrible story of war. In the simple words of a child, she wrote of the deaths of the members of her family. Geine in December, Grannie in January. Then Lyosha, then Uncle Vasya, then Uncle Lyosha. Then Mama, then Savichev and then, finally, the last words in her diary: "All are dead. Only Tanya is left."

As we work toward a more peaceful world, let us think of Tanya -- and of the other Tanyas, and their brothers and sisters everywhere. Let us do all that we can to ensure that no other children will have to endure what Tanya did -- and that your children and ours, and all the children of the world, can live their full lives together in friendship and peace.

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